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when the latter seems so much more probable? The spirit of the whole poem is so consistently Germanic as contrasted with Hebrew, that we should have to presuppose remarkable skill on the part of the poet to enable him to affect the tone he strikes without betraying his real spirit.

On p. 201 the author ought not to speak of the Latin Nibelungenlied without mentioning the reasons for doubting its ever having existed. We should here expect a reference to Müllenhoff's 'Zur Geschichte der Nibelunge Not,' p. 75. To the literature on Waltharius (p. 388) might be added 'The Saga of Walther of Aquitaine' by M. D. Learned, *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, vol. vii, no. 1.

The treatment of the Heldensage and the chapter on Otfrid should be mentioned for their excellence. Kelle shows with much skill in how far Otfrid's poem is an exponent of Germanic life. There would have been no harm, by the way, in at least mentioning Piper's view of the Otfrid texts.

The notes on Muspilli (p. 358 ff.), contain a valuable investigation on the date of that poem. A study of the St. Emmeraner Urkunden (cf. 'Grundriss,' ii, p. 212) has led Kelle to fix the date of Muspilli a little later than the middle of the ninth century.

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#### FRENCH LITERATURE.

*Le Moulin Frappier*, par HENRI GRÉVILLE.

Adapted and edited for use in schools and colleges by James Boïelle, B. A. (Univ. Gall.). London: Whittaker & Co.; New York: Macmillan & Co.; 1893. Text, pp. 233; Notes, pp. 40.

IN this handy little volume, Henri Gréville's charming novel is made to do a duty very different from that proposed by the author. In the opinion of the author and, in general, from an artistic point of view, a book of pure literature is doubtless mutilated by being cut down, as in this case, to a little more than one third of its original form. But in any case, a book of high literary merit is degraded when used mainly for the purpose of elementary

instruction, and yet teachers of language must of necessity use such material.

Condensed and abridged forms of texts are, therefore, justified by their usefulness for school purposes, and we may add that outside of the schools, many general readers are likely to enjoy the shorter form, when they would not undertake the original.

'Sans Famille,' of Malot, 'Les Trois Mousquetaires,' of Dumas, 'Soll und Haben,' of Freytag, and other valuable specimens of foreign literature, thus condensed, have come into the hands of a wider public.

In his Notes, Prof. Boïelle has given many examples of clever, idiomatic translation, has explained foreign customs and institutions, and brought out, systematically, important laws of grammar.

Teachers of French must in the main encourage their students to read widely, and so cannot delay very long on purely grammatical points. But there must always be a safe grammatical foundation, varying in amount according to the aims and circumstances of the instruction; and after the first theoretical work is done, it seems to me advisable, at some time in the lower course, to let the student review the grammar practically by occasional but regular reference to the text under consideration. For such a purpose, Prof. Boïelle's grammatical résumés are very useful. They are not long enough nor numerous enough to be tedious, and besides the teacher will supply plenty of current reading, in which the explanations are as few as possible.

The idiomatic renderings in the Notes will be suggestive and stimulating. It is difficult to lay too much stress upon thoroughly idiomatic translation.

In some cases the note, good enough in itself, seems hardly necessary; as, p. 253 (70, 25), where the regular agreement of *eues* is explained. Similarly we might dispense with the following notes: p. 265 (145, 7); p. 270 (175, 29); p. 273 (196, 16; 198, 9); p. 274 (203, 1; 204, 19); p. 275 (222, 24).

Occasional translations are not happy; for example, p. 236 (4, 3), *je leur ai payé à boire*, *I have stood them drinks*. This has a clever ring, but for the continental customs, it

smacks too much of the bar-room. We might say, *I invited them to drink a glass of wine with me.* P. 237 (5, 3), *as-tu trouvé à qui parler? Have you found Miss Right? Better, have you found the right girl?* P. 260 (110, 23), *Je m'en charge, I undertake that it shall be so.* Better, *I answer for it.* P. 264 (143, 16), *je suis reçu au salon de peinture, I have two pictures hung in the Academy.* Better, *my pictures have been accepted by the Academy.* P. 269 (166, 12), *que voulez-vous! What would you have? Better, What else could you expect!* P. 272 (191, 5), *en Parisienne comme il faut, into a lady-like Parisian girl* (sic). Geneviève is no longer a girl. Why not say, *into a well-bred Parisian lady?*

Some of the grammatical statements might be modified. P. 256 (90, 20), the explanation of the subjunctive will be clearer, if it be added, than the *relative* denotes *character.* P. 268 (163, 29, v), the example in the text has only *one* infinitive. But these are only a small part of the whole book. The work is admirably done, and will help, not only to instruct pupils of the intermediate grades, but also to stimulate the desire to read more widely in French for the enjoyment of the literature.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### 'TOTE.'

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—With reference to the frequent discussions concerning the etymology of the provincial word, "tote," meaning to "carry," resumed two years ago in the pages of this journal, vol. vi, pp. 180f., I have thought it of interest to call attention to an instance of the use of this word in the American colonial period which is earlier than any that has ever come under my own observation.—I owe to my brother, Philip A. Bruce, Esq., Corresponding Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, the communication of this instance which was made in the following terms:

"The word occurs in the 7th clause in the grievances of Gloucester County which were presented to the three Commissioners who

had been sent to the colony of Virginia to inquire into the causes of the rebellion of 1676 headed by Nathaniel Bacon. All the counties of the colony were asked to give a statement of their grounds of complaint against the administration of the affairs of Virginia by the men then in authority in the colony. The original of the Gloucester grievances is preserved in the British State Paper Office, Colonial Entry-Book, No. 81, pp. 325-327, February, 1676-77, 7th clause. A complaint against Major Robert Beverley that when this county had according to order raised 60 armed men to be an outguard for the Governour, who not finding the Governour nor those appointed commanders they were by Beverly commanded to goe to work, fall trees and mawle and *toat* rails which many of them refusing to doe he presently disarm'd them and sent them home at a tyme when this country were infested by the Indians who had but a little before cutt off 6 persons in one family and attempted others. They beg reparation against the said Beverly and his Majesties gracious Pardon for their late defections."

The occurrence of the word in a public remonstrance to the King is significant, as showing how firmly fixed it was in popular use in Virginia even at this early date. With regard to the older theory of African origin for the word, my brother calls my attention to the fact that at this time the number of negro slaves in Virginia was still very small, so that negro influence on the speech of the English population would hardly have been strong enough as yet to have added a word to their vocabulary.

Before concluding, I should like to point out what seems to me to be a very important omission in Prof. Baskervill's identification of the word "tote," with the word "tout," as in the phrase, "to tout for custom" (MOD. LANG. NOTES vi, 181)—the omission, I mean, to explain the marked difference in the pronunciation of the two words.

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### THE AVOWING OF ARTHUR.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—The first tale of Bawdewyn of Britain in the Middle English *Avowing of Arthur* (sts. 58-62, Robson, *Three Early English Metrical Romances*, pp. 86-88) is compared by Gaston Paris ('Hist. Litt.,' xxx, 112) with